



Spring 2023 – Tuesday Schedule

Morning Class: 10:00 – 12:00 and Afternoon Class: 1:30 – 3:30

February 14

The Music and Importance of Frank Sinatra

Gary Hastings and Turner Battle

Trumpeter/vocalist Gary Hastings and jazz pianist Turner Battle present a lecture/music performance on the music of Frank Sinatra with a combination of recordings by the singer and their own live interpretations of classic Sinatra tunes. This program will be both informative and highly entertaining as we look at the impact of Frank Sinatra on America's musical history.

***Gary Hastings** is an accomplished jazz trumpeter who has performed in jazz settings across the country and around the world. For ten years he was the lead trumpet in the US Airways Jazz Orchestra and for over twenty-five years he toured with the Guy Lombardo Royal Canadians. He has also performed with the Glenn Miller Orchestra, the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, and the Nelson Riddle Orchestra. An authority on the music of Louis Armstrong, Mr. Hastings has performed many musical tributes to Armstrong's life and music. In addition, he is a retired assistant chief of police in Greensboro, North Carolina, and has authored a popular criminal investigation textbook plus five police detective novels.*

***Turner Battle** is an accomplished composer, arranger, keyboardist and music producer. He has been involved in projects heard on MTV and HBO and has composed and arranged original music for major companies. He has also performed with some of the great jazz musicians and singers of our time. Among other talents, Mr. Battle is an award-winning voiceover artist, and his voice has been heard on voice mail, audiobooks, video games, walking museum tours, and more. A graduate of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, he was the principal arranger for its Blue and Gold Marching Machine Band from 1980-1987.*

February 21

The Modern History of Ukraine

Jeff Jones, PhD

The tragedy of Ukraine is in the news every day. This timely class will focus on Ukraine and Russia with emphasis on current events.

***Dr. Jeff Jones** was born in the North Carolina mountains in Jefferson and grew up near Greensboro, in Liberty. He did his undergraduate and graduate work at UNC-Chapel Hill and is currently an Associate Professor of Russian-Soviet and Contemporary World History at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. His first book is entitled Everyday Life and the 'Reconstruction' of Soviet Russia During and After the Great Patriotic War, 1943-1948, and he is currently completing a book entitled Smoke, Mirrors and Memories: Legacies of the Soviet-Afghan War, 1979-1989, forthcoming in 2024. Dr. Jones traveled through Ukraine frequently in the 1990s and lived there in the summer of 2015 while doing research in Kyiv.*

February 28

Nobody Lives Alone: Symbiotic Partners, Friends or Foes?

Parke Rublee, PhD

All organisms interact with "partners" during their lifetime. Such relationships may be harmful, but they are just as often helpful, allowing both organisms to prosper. This offering will examine a range of associations, including that of humans with our microbiome, which we are discovering is intimately linked to our physical and mental health.

Dr. Parke Rublee, an aquatic ecologist, received his MS and PhD from North Carolina State University. After postdoctoral positions at the University of Miami and the Smithsonian Institution, he taught at Whitman College for eight years and then at UNCG for twenty-eight years. In 1997 he was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He now lives in Greensboro and spends summers in Maine.

March 7

Duke Lemur Center

Megan McGrath

What is a lemur? Why are there 200 of them in North Carolina? What can we learn about ourselves by studying them? Since 1966, the Duke Lemur Center in Durham, NC, has used non-invasive research to better understand lemurs, from what they need to thrive in human care to how best to protect their native habitat in Madagascar. While the lemurs won't be making the trip, this conversation will feature plenty of videos showing off some of the world's most adorable, and most endangered, primates.

Megan McGrath is the Education Programs Manager at the Duke Lemur Center, and a proud Elon alumna. As an undergraduate at Elon University, Megan learned of an internship at the nearby Conservators Center and jumped at the opportunity to help care for lions, tigers, wolves, and many other small carnivores. It quickly became apparent to Megan that her passion for waking up at the crack of dawn to clean up after animals far outweighed her passion for her independent research project in psychology, and so her original life plan of pursuing a PhD in Neuroscience needed drastic alterations. Upon graduation, Megan worked part-time at the Conservators Center in order to pursue her new career path, eventually working her way from tour guide and animal keeper to full-time Education Programs Supervisor, before joining the Duke Lemur Center team in 2016.

March 14

Mushrooms of North Carolina

Alan Besette, PhD and Arleen Besette, MA

Part I: An Introduction to Mushrooms & Other Fungi

Part II: Mountains to Sea: Fungal Diversity of North Carolina

During the first hour of class, Arleen will present an overview of some of the common uses of fungi, information on fungal anatomy, examples of taxonomic groups, and the relationships and roles of fungi within the ecosystem where they, and we, exist.

After the break, Alan will explore the varied habitats and ecological niches occupied by fungi. You will be taken on a photographic journey of the rich biodiversity, the beautiful - and sometimes surprising - forms and colors of the fungi that make North Carolina their home.

***Dr. Alan E. Bessette** is a professional mycologist and distinguished emeritus professor of biology at Utica College of Syracuse University. He has published numerous papers in the field of mycology and has authored or coauthored more than twenty-five books, including A Field Guide to the Mushrooms of the Carolinas. Alan served both as a consultant for the New York State Poison Control Center and as the scientific adviser to the Mid-York Mycological Society for more than twenty years. The principal mycologist at national and regional forays for several decades, he was the recipient of the 1987 Mycological Foray Service Award and of the 1992 North American Mycological Association Award for Contributions to Amateur Mycology.*

***Arleen Bessette** is a retired psychotherapist as well as a mycologist and botanical photographer. She has been collecting and studying wild mushrooms for more than fifty years. She has published several papers in the field of mycology and has authored or coauthored more than fifteen books, including Mushrooms of the Southeastern United States and A Field Guide to the Mushrooms of the Carolinas. Arleen has won several awards in the North American Mycological Association's annual photography competition, including top honors in both the documentary and the pictorial divisions. Her mycological interests include the effects of fungi on consciousness, mycophagy, and dyeing fiber with lichens and fungi.*

March 21

Rockin' Through the Years

Joy Harrison Rust, MA

We will go down memory lane as we sit in our "rocking chairs" and relive rock and roll hits. How do these songs reflect the history of the time? How is the social and business climate of the time demonstrated? What do we remember about these hit songs?

We will travel through the decades, looking at some of the hits and performers and examining pop music's evolution during the twentieth century. We will explore songs that reflect the history of the decades, especially the 1960s and 1970s, pondering lyrics and listening to videos and recordings. (We may even sing along with the recordings!) Some elements of "YouTube for Dummies" will be included, as it is a powerful musical online resource. We will conclude by examining some of the music to which your grandchildren are listening, contemplating whether their music will stand the test of time as our music has.

***Joy Harrison Rust** grew up on a farm in northwestern Ohio, where, as a sixth grader, she began playing the organ and piano for Sunday services at her Methodist church. A piano and music education major at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, she served as the accompanist for the Men's Glee Club for four years. Ms. Rust also holds an MA in Curriculum and Instruction, a license for gifted education, as well as certification in Early and Middle Childhood Music.*

After forty successful years of K-12 music teaching in Ohio, Florida, Illinois, and North Carolina, including eighteen years in the Alamance-Burlington School System, Ms. Rust retired in 2018. Her church music experience includes work at churches in four states with duties ranging from organist,

pianist, children and adult choir director, and handbell director as well as director of music. She is currently the organist/pianist at Elon Community Church.

March 28

How Do We Talk About Time?

Larry Wakeford, MAT

In the 1980s Larry Wakeford became fascinated by the changing concept of time in the late 1800s and early 1900s. In science, relativity and quantum mechanics revolutionized our understanding of time. At the same time, artists, such as Monet and the Impressionists, Picasso and the Cubists, the Futurists, and the Surrealists experimented with new ways to represent time in art. Was this a coincidence or was there some synergy between art and science?

*After graduating from Manhattan College in 1965, **Larry Wakeford** served for two years in the Peace Corps in Colombia, introducing new science curricula to Colombian elementary and secondary teachers. He then completed the MAT program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (1968) and began his teaching career at Walpole High School in Massachusetts. He went on to become the director/clinical professor of Science Education and senior lecturer in the Brown University Teacher Education Program in Providence, Rhode Island, for fifteen years. His last teaching position was as an adjunct instructor at Central New Mexico Community College in Albuquerque.*

Mr. Wakeford has been the recipient of Brown University's Sheridan Award for Distinguished Contribution to Teaching and Learning. He was chosen as the North Carolina Region 5 Teacher of the Year, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Teacher of the Year, and the Kaiser Permanente Chair for Science Teaching.

April 4

Scotland's Emigrants in North Carolina

Mara Shea

[Rescheduled from the fall of 2022 due to illness.]

This presentation will briefly cover the eighteenth-century emigrations from Scotland to America, focusing on a North Carolina connection and highlighting some of the music and dance traditions that came with the settlers. Mara will educate and entertain as she weaves her beautiful fiddle playing into the history lessons she shares.

***Mara Shea** has been a dance fiddler for almost thirty years, performing Scottish, Contra, and English country dance. She is also a teacher; her fiddle students range from seven to eighty-seven, most between fifty and seventy-five. She studied classical violin for the first part of her life until she was twenty, when she abandoned the violin entirely, picking it up again fifteen years later to become a dance fiddle player. She studied ethnomusicology and folklore in Scotland for a year at the University of Aberdeen, and she loves to write and do research about tune histories. She has lived in North Carolina for thirty years and now lives at Twin Lakes in Elon, North Carolina. She travels throughout the US and UK, playing for dance events and teaching workshops.*

April 11

Nuclear Waste: A Stumbling Block for Nuclear Energy

Richard Moore, PE

Climate change is a growing concern that needs to be addressed. Nuclear energy has been described as a carbon neutral energy source that should be tapped to reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses through electric generation. However, nuclear generation has a complex set of issues that have prevented it from becoming a dominate source of electricity production. This presentation will present the history of the nuclear waste program in the U.S., the failure of the federal government to address the issue, and the consequences of that failure on consumers and taxpayers.

Richard Moore is a professional engineer with his own consulting firm. An expert in nuclear waste transportation, Richard Moore has spent over thirty years working with local, state, and federal communities and agencies to help them find safe ways to transport and store nuclear fuels.

Mr. Moore was one of the principal authors of the Western Governors' Association Transportation Safety Program Implementation Guide, which has become the standard for transporting nuclear waste safely in the United States and served as the advisor to the Western Interstate Energy Board in the development and adoption of policies for safe, secure, and uneventful transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste in the western states. In 2020-21, Rick was a member of the "Experts Team," which advised Southern California Edison on steps that it could take to maximize the opportunities to move spent nuclear fuel from the decommissioned San Onofre Generating Station to location.

Thursday, April 13 *SPECIAL ZOOM PRESENTATION OPEN TO ALL CLASS MEMBERS*

The Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection

Lauren Maupin, Manager of Education and Programs

[The Zoom link will be emailed to everyone the day before, no pre-registration is required. We hope you will join us for this special offering!]

The Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection located at the University of Virginia is the only public museum devoted entirely to Australian aboriginal art in America. Comprising over 1600 objects including paintings on bark, canvas, board and paper, the collection possesses a wide range of Aboriginal art. This presentation will provide an opportunity for participants to learn about Aboriginal art, the history of the Papunya Tula artists, and the ongoing efforts to support and maintain the collection. In addition to discussing the history of the collection, the presentation will have a variety of slides of the works.

Lauren Maupin holds a BA in Art History from Messiah University and an MA in the History of Art from University College, London, as well as a certificate in Executive Leadership from Cornell University. Her primary role as Manager of Education and Programs involves the development, implementation, and evaluation of in-person and digital engagement for Kluge-Ruhe, which includes the artist residency program, Kluge-Ruhe's volunteer and tour programs, visitor services, and community programming, as well as webinars and large-scale online resources. She is a co-author of Teaching Aboriginal Art in the Classroom, a publication of the Art Gallery of South Australia, and regularly advises other museums and schools about their lesson plans on Aboriginal art. She is passionate about making information about indigenous Australian arts accessible to the casual explorer anywhere in the world, and luring visitors into the wonder and beauty of indigenous Australian cultures.

April 18
Undergraduate Research Presentations
Various Elon Students

Join us for a riveting exploration of new scholarship from Elon's brightest young minds. Undergraduate Research is one of five learning requirements promoted by the University. Research offers a unique opportunity for students to engage in inquiry in their chosen field of study and to experience first-hand what professionals in a chosen field do. The research presentations of these students will encourage you to think about the world in ways you had not before.

At each LIFE@Elon session, three Elon students will present their research from various fields across the University. Each class will feature different student presentations, as class schedules and availability all vary. No matter which students speak to your class, the presentations will be compelling.

April 25
Unlocking the Doors of Opportunity / The Rosenwald Schools of North Carolina
Tom Lassiter and Jere Snyder

The documentary Unlocking the Doors of Opportunity reveals an important chapter of North Carolina history that has been largely ignored by our history books and which is remembered by an ever-dwindling number of citizens. African Americans in the Jim Crow South of the early 20th century, especially those living in rural areas, did not have adequate access to education. There simply were not enough public schools and qualified teachers for the number of students. White-controlled school boards, despite North Carolina's constitutional mandate for equal funding of schools for White and Black students, simply spent the majority of tax funds on schools for White students. It took a plan devised by Booker T. Washington, one of the nation's best-known Black educators, and Julius Rosenwald, a Jewish philanthropist whose parents emigrated from Germany, to initiate fundamental change for African American children in the South. The 30-minute film was produced by Longleaf Productions, with major funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and Truist. Carolina K-12 lists the film as a resource for high school educators teaching the history of Black education in the state. The documentary is slated to air on PBS-NC in February 2023.

***Tom Lassiter** holds a journalism degree from UNC-Chapel Hill. He has been a reporter, photographer, and editor for daily newspapers in North Carolina and Virginia. As a free-lancer, he has collaborated with director and videographer **Jere Snyder** for more than 25 years. In 2015, Lassiter and Snyder formed non-profit Longleaf Productions to develop the Rosenwald Schools project. Two documentaries have resulted so far, with a third in development.*

May 2
The Art of Storytelling
Fred Motley

[Our annual business meeting and elections for new members to serve on the Executive Committee will be held at the beginning of each class this week.]

Stories are crafted from life lessons we have learned, from traditions we have maintained, from wishful thinking, and from make-believe escapism. It is important that all types of these stories are passed from generation to generation. Storytelling is how we as humans evolve. As long as we have stories to tell of what we've done in the past, what we are doing in the present and what we will be doing in the future, our lives and our communities should never show signs of desolation. Storytelling is an art. Dr. Motley, a modern-day Griot, will demonstrate the art form of storytelling through a performance of stories from around the world that entertain and educate. Every one of us has stories in our heads and hearts. Hopefully after this presentation you will tell that story to someone to keep the legacy of storytelling alive.

***Fred Motley** is a storyteller/educator, theatre director, and actor. He has been professionally active across the Southeast and the US for more than thirty years. He performs, directs, and gives workshops at festivals, colleges and universities, libraries, and community events, with special emphasis on African American stories. As a storyteller, he has performed at The Wake Forest Storytelling Festival, NC Storyfest, and the Danville Storytelling Festival. As an actor he has performed with Virginia Repertory, Mill Mountain Theatre, The Barn Dinner Theatre, and many others. Fred holds an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Living Epistle Bible College in Summit, NC.*

Presenters and topics for the weekly classes are subject to change.
Classes cancelled for any reason will not be made up and no refund will be given.